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ABSTRACT

Ideas for teaching elementary and secondary students of English as a Second Language (ESL) through a unit on kites and kite-making are offered. First, unit objectives are outlined. These include objectives for cognitive skill development (classification, comparison), psychomotor skills (constructing a kite), mathematical operations (measuring, calculating size and surface area), comprehension of scientific principles (lift and drag), speaking and writing (discussion of and writing about kite-making and kite-flying), and cultural education (sharing customs concerning kites). A series of lessons follows, each for a specific language level and including a vocabulary list and class activities. Instructions for making a plastic-bag kite and a Japanese folding kite are presented. Suggestions for teaching a reading, literature, and social studies lesson using a story about kites is also presented, with the story text accompanying it. Additional information includes a bibliography of literature about kites, a list of books about kite construction, and addresses for sources of kite-making materials. (MSE)

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ED 362 016

Teaching ESL Content through Kite Making for grades K-12

Unit Questions to be answered:

What are some things that fly?
How does a kite fly?
How can we make a kite?

UNIT OBJECTIVES:

to identify varieties of flying things
to compare methods of flight
to construct a simple diamond kite that flies
to practice mathematical operations of :
measuring with a protractor
measuring with a ruler
squaring with a right angle
calculating surface are of the kite
calculating length of the tail
to demonstrate scientific principles of lift and drag
to discuss and write about kite making and flying experience
to provide the opportunity for students to share kite flying customs in their countries

Lesson: *What are some things that fly?* Beginning ESL levels

VOCABULARY
kite
wing
fly-flew-flown
diamond
natural
motor

1. Students generate a list of things that fly.
2. Categorize the list under headings that seem appropriate, such as:
   things that fly with motors
   things that fly naturally
   things that fly by themselves
   things that need help to fly
   things that fly with wings
   things that fly without wings, etc.
3. Discuss rationale for including items in one group or another.
4. Illustrate or find illustrations of things that fly.
5. Compare things within each group for their differences.

Follow up:

--Graph by category the number of things you have listed
--Collect five different pictures of things that fly and add them to your chart
--"Invent" a novel type of f ing object and explain it to the class
--Play "20 Questions" with flying objects from your class list

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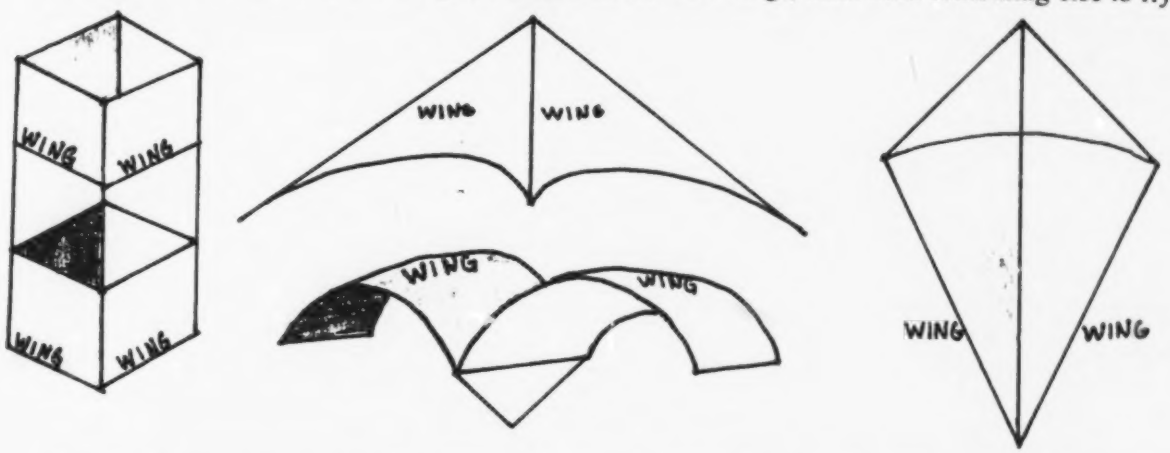
VOCABULARY
weigh
heavy
heavier than
as heavy as
wind(y)
flight

Lesson: *How Does a Kite Fly?* Intermediate-Advanced ESL levels
Materials: 1 kite for every 6-7 students, pictures of flying birds or planes (you need their outstretched wings)

1. Refer back to the chart of previous class. Ask, how much do the flying things weigh? How much does air weigh? Point out flying things are heavier than air (except balloons, which are helium-filled). So then, how do they fly?
2. Show the class a kite. A bat kite is very good, but you can use a diamond or box kite, too. Compare the kite to a bird or an airplane. (Use a picture).Is the bird or plane heavier than air? What features do they have in common? (WINGS).
3. Have students identify the wings on their kite. Besides wings, kites need something else to fly.



What is it? What kind of a day do you need for kite flying? (WIND, WINDY DAY). You need wind under the wings for flight.

Follow Up:
--Draw a kite and label its wings
--Bring in different kinds of kites and identify their wings
--Have the students generate their own questions about kites and flying and list them to be answered later
--List 5 flying things that are heavier than air

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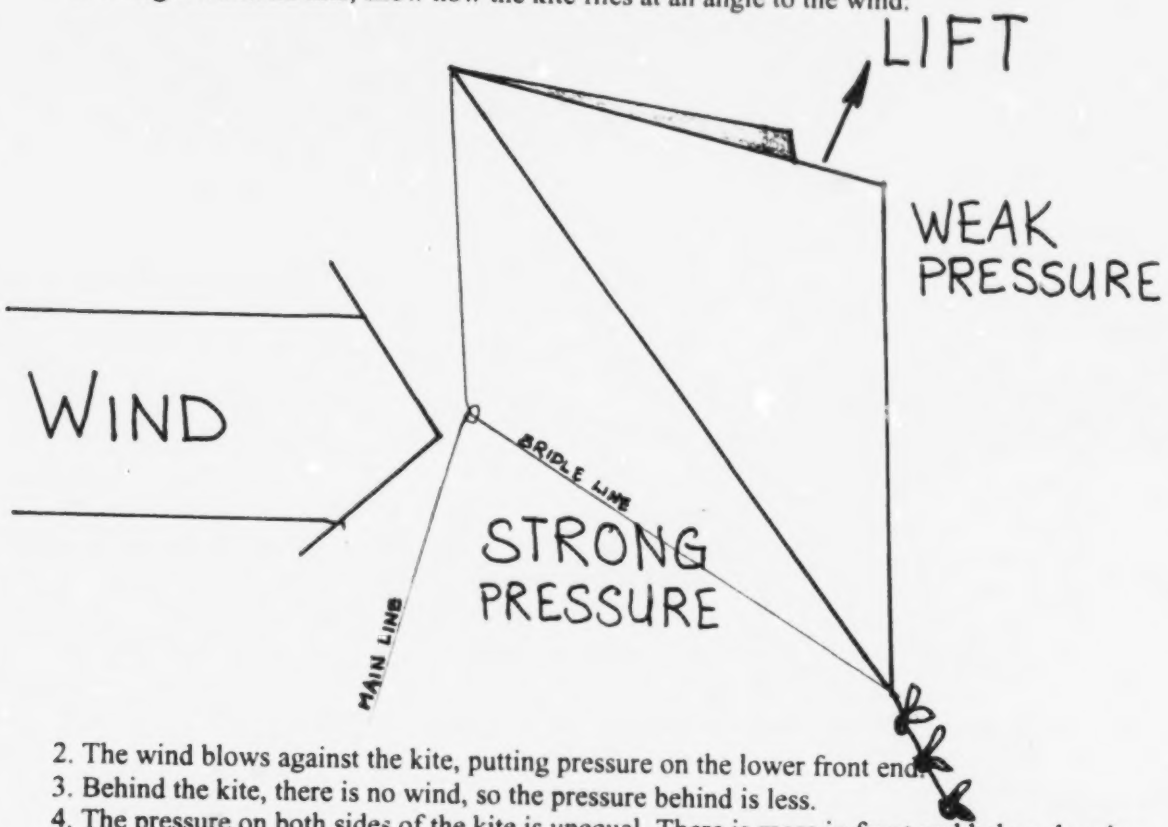
VOCABULARY
angle
blow-blew-blown
pressure
tilt
lift
unequal
rise-rose-risen
twist

Lesson: *How does a kite fly?* High Begin.-Advanced
Materials: 1 diamond kite (per 6-7 students) with bridle line and tail attached

1. Using a diamond kite, show how the kite flies at an angle to the wind:



2. The wind blows against the kite, putting pressure on the lower front end.
3. Behind the kite, there is no wind, so the pressure behind is less.
4. The pressure on both sides of the kite is unequal. There is more in front and below, less in back and above, so kite rises in direction of lesser pressure. This is LIFT.
5. The bridle string controls the angle against the wind. Without the angle, there is no lift. The tail maintains the angle, and keeps the kite from twisting in the air. Only diamond kites and small winged kites need tails.

Follow up:
--Demonstrate lift in the school yard with a small kite on a windy day
--Have students diagram the unequal pressures
--Have students retell the theory using their kites

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VOCABULARY

length	saw	lash	trace	squareknot
stick	frame	partner	flap	
string	bow	loop	leftover	
roll	skin	slipknot	attach	
protractor	bridle	bend	apply	
angle	notch	measure	excess	

Lesson: *How can we make a kite?* Beginning-Advanced ESL levels (ages 10+)

1. List varieties of kites. Show pictures of diamond, bat, dragon, fish (not a true kite; it's a wind sock), round kites, fighting kites, etc. There is great diversity in kite design. We will make a diamond kite because they are simple to construct and fly well.
2. Describe materials used to make the kites seen in the pictures: bamboo, tissue paper, plastic, silk, nylon, wood, etc. Much variety here also.
3. Students may want to share materials and shapes used for kite making in their native countries

Basic procedure:
-Make the kite frame by lashing the sticks together.
-Attach string around the frame.
-Bow the kite(4 hands needed here).
-Decorate the skin.
-Glue the skin on the frame.
-Attach the bridle string and tail.

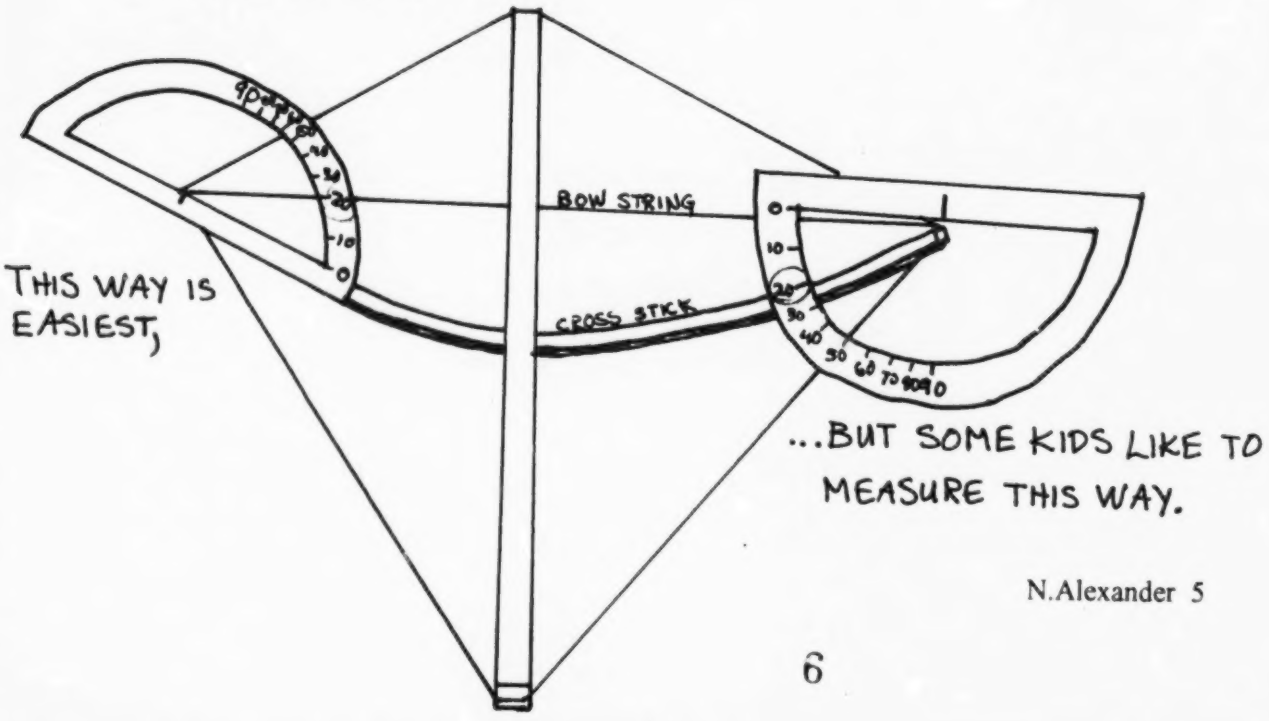
RECIPE FOR A DIAMOND KITE

Materials:
--ruler
--2 rectangular strips of wood 1/4" x 1/8" ,18" and 24" long (available at art supply and hobby stores in 24" lengths. The students will have to measure and saw off one stick)
--one plastic grocery bag OR
--tissue paper
--white glue
--a roll of kite string
--a marker
--scissors or exacto knife
--protractor and a right triangle, like a 30-60-90
--a small hand held saw
--tempera paint to decorate (only the tissue paper kite)

Before beginning, demonstrate how to make a *slipknot* and a *squareknot*.

(You may want to copy this recipe onto butcher paper or newsprint and tape it in front of the class.)
1. Cut the sticks to 18" and 24".
2. Notch the ends of the sticks with the saw or exacto knife.
3. Measure the 18"stick and mark 9". Make a "T" with the sticks at the 9" mark. N. Alexander 4

4. Measure and cut about 18" of the string, and lash it around where the two sticks cross.
5. Use a right triangle to square the sticks.
6. When the sticks are square, generously apply white glue to the string to seal the sticks in place. Let it dry 5-10 minutes.
7. Cut 72" of string. String it in the notches around the kite frame in a diamond shape. Tie a double knot
8. Get a partner.
9. Lay the sticks on the table with the short stick underneath.
10. Measure and cut 36" of string. Tie one end into a slipknot.
11. Put the looped end into the notch on the short stick.
12. Gently and carefully, bend the short stick ends up while your partner holds the long stick down.
13. When the bend is 15-20 degrees (measure with the protractor as shown), tie the string around the other notch. Measure again and tie the string.
14. Glue the bow string in the notches with white glue.
15. Cut off the bottom and handles of your shopping bag, if that's what you're using for the skin. Save the excess for the tail. If you are using paper, spread it out.
16. Put your kite frame on the bag or paper, and trace around it with marker. Add 2" cutting and gluing allowance to this tracing.
17. Cut out the kite skin and decorate.
18. Attach skin to frame by gluing the 2" flaps over the string. Cut off the corners before glueing
19. Attach a bridle string to the bottom of the kite and to the cross sticks. It should be fairly loose.
20. Make a tail of the leftover bag plastic. It should be 3 1/2 times the length of the kite. You may have to add more tail scraps. Attach it to the bottom of the kite.
21. Attach the kite line to the bridle string using a looped knot. The kite line must be able to move up and down the bridle line.
22. Fly it on a windy day.



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Name

Plastic Bag Kite

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 17, 1706. He lived to be eighty-four years old. During his long life, he was a printer, a writer, a philosopher, a statesman, a scientist, and an inventor. Among his inventions are bifocals and the Franklin stove. In 1752, he used a kite in an experiment in which he identified lightning as a discharge of electrical energy.

What You Need

large plastic trash bag
scissors
yardstick
acrylic paints in assorted colors
paintbrush
water cup
water
two balsa wood sticks each 16 inches long
electrician's tape *or* mystic tape
or masking tape
hole punch
one ball of kite string
crepe paper streamers

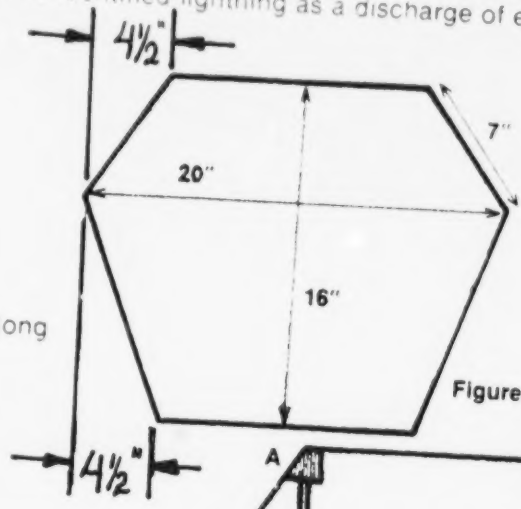


Figure 1

What You Do

1. Cut the plastic bag to the shape and dimensions shown in Figure 1.
2. Paint a picture or design on one side of the plastic.
3. Tape two of the sticks to the other side of the plastic as shown in Figure 2. One stick should run from A to B, and the other, from C to D.
4. Punch one hole in the plastic at E and another at F. (See Figure 3.)
5. Cut a 40-inch piece of kite string.
6. Put one end of the string through the hole at E and the other end through the hole at F as shown in Figure 3.

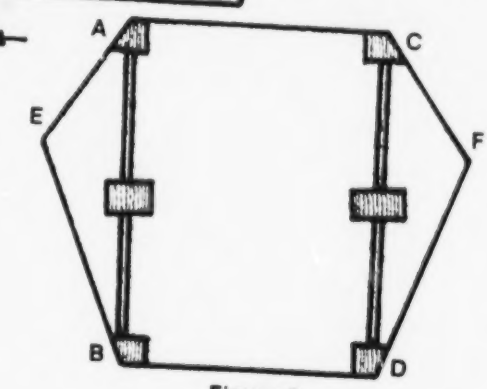


Figure 2

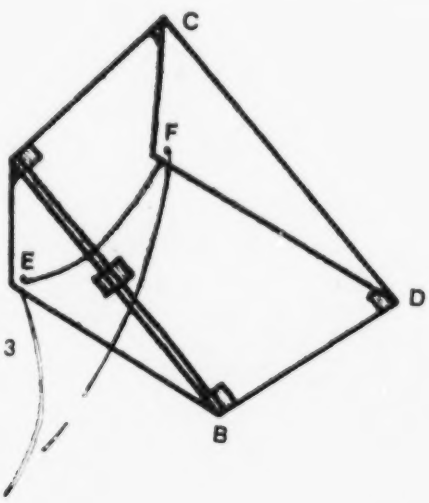
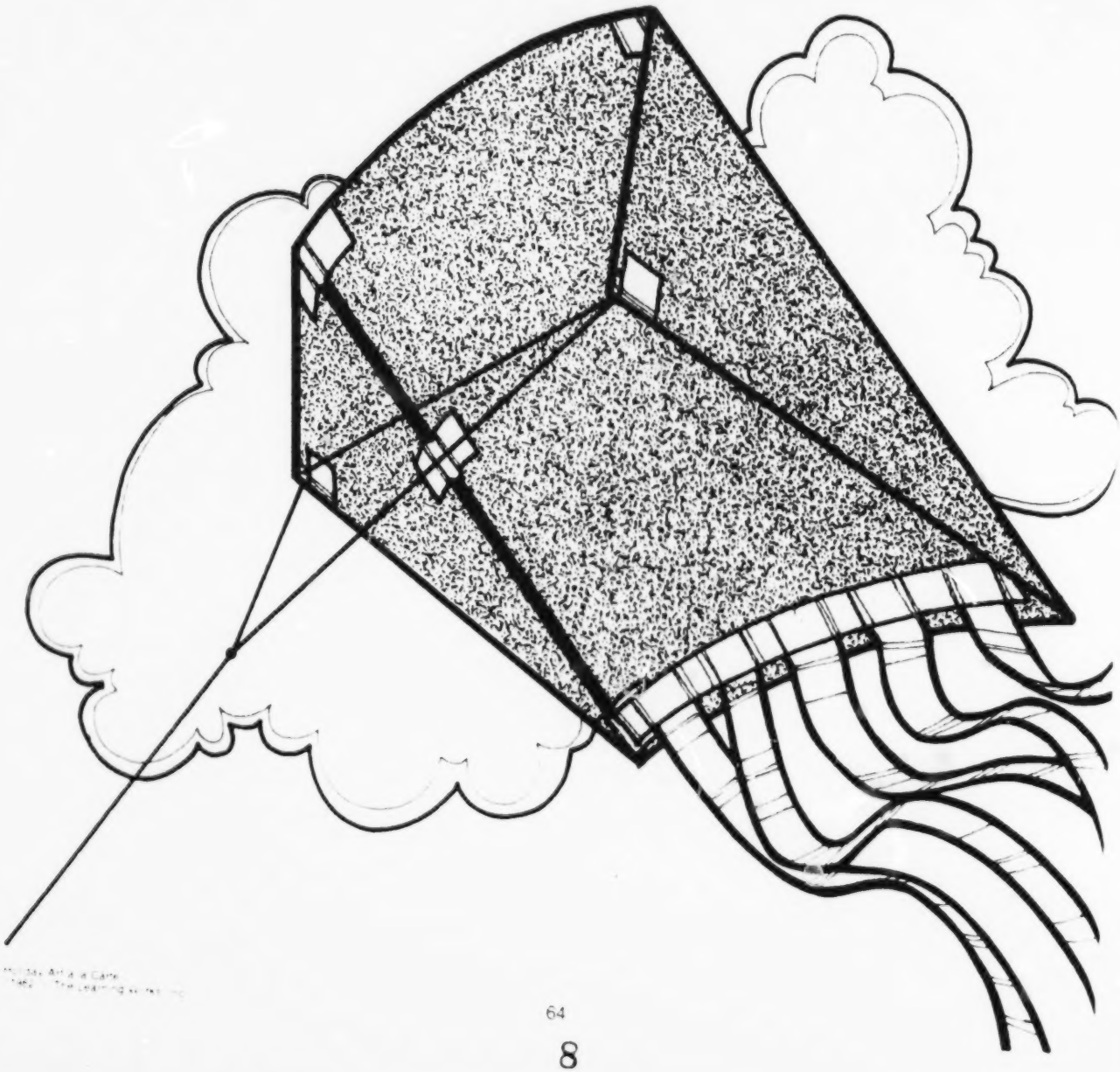


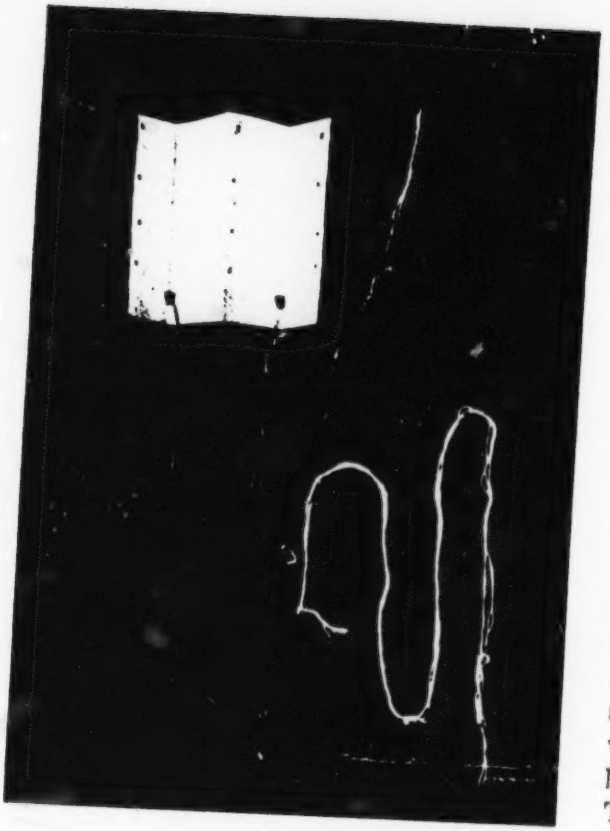
Figure 3

Name _____

Plastic Bag Kite
(continued)

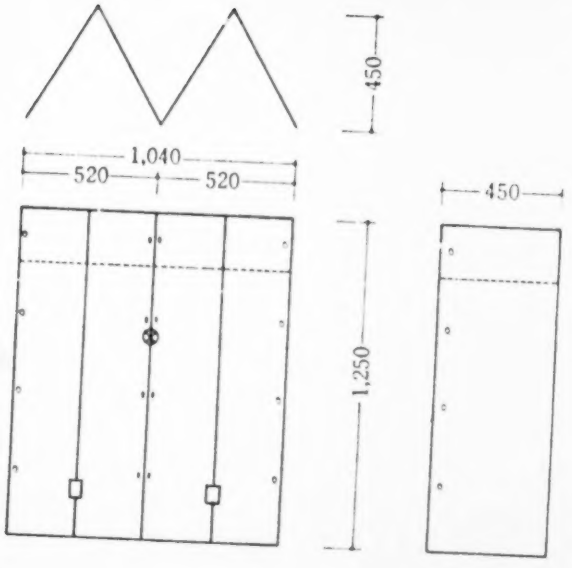
7. Tie the ends of the string together.
8. Put tape over the holes at E and F to keep them from tearing.
9. Tape streamers inside the kite along the bottom edge between B and D.
10. Knot the string that runs from E to F in the center to make a loop.
11. Tie the end of the ball of string through this loop.
12. Go fly your kite!

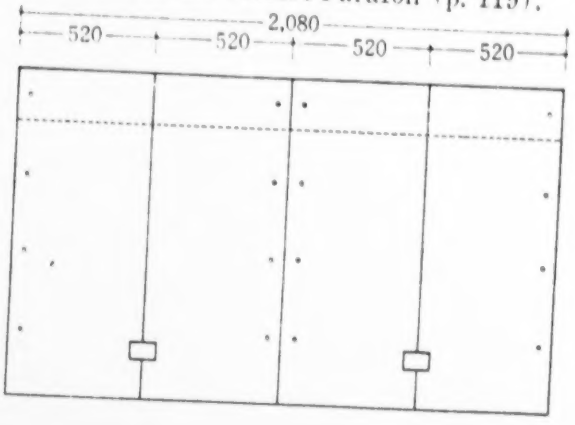




FOLDING KITE (Japan)

This kite is native to the remote solitary island of Aogashima (south of Hachijo Island). The children of the island make it by folding pieces of notebook paper into four sections, making three rows of four holes each with an incense stick, and passing twelve lengths of thread through the twelve holes. This is enough to give the thin paper surface complete support. The folded surfaces replace the nonexistent frame. Do not underestimate its simple structure. Its functionality is on a par with the most elaborate three-dimensional kites, and even ultramodern frameless creations such as the Jalbert Parafoil (p. 119).





How to Teach A Reading/Literature/Social Studies Lesson Using a Story About Kites

1. Read the book. Pull out vocabulary you want to teach.
2. Decide on Social Studies concepts you want to teach related to human behavior, societal class, family relationships, geography, history, politics, religion, customs, dress, etc.
3. Do *prediction* exercises with the class. Look at the book's cover or pictures. What do they think the story will be about? What do they already know about the story based on the title and pictures? You could write these down if you wanted and compare to the actual answers after reading the story.
4. List the vocabulary on the board or a sheet of newsprint. Make predictions about the vocabulary meanings before reading the story. Do not use a dictionary. Write these down on the newsprint or board for later comparison.
5. Read the story to the students, or have them read it to you. As they encounter vocabulary words, check their predicted definitions. Teacher helps redefine from the context of the story.
6. Ask comprehension questions throughout the story. Ask students frequently what will happen next.
7. Note the words the students mispronounce or can't read. See if there is a pattern here, like sight words, or silent "e" words, or short vowel words, or consonant blends, etc. Plan a later decoding lesson based on these words and the sentences in the story in which they appeared.
8. After reading the story, review the vocabulary. Copy sentences from the story with the vocabulary words or using the story context definitions students write their own sentences.
9. Compare predictions with the story's actual outcome. Discuss how close or how far off the predictions were.

Follow Up Activites for Younger Students

---Draw the story in pictures and write (the teacher or the students) what's happening .
---Act out the story.
---Teacher writes or draws key events from story on tag strips and students put them in order.
---Teacher writes a sentence from the story and students illustrate it.
---Students retell story and teacher writes it down for students to recopy and illustrate (or not.)
---Discuss and give examples from the story illustrating key Social Studies concepts.
---Find country of story's origin on a world map.

Follow Up Activities for Older Students

---Some of the above activities are good for older students, too. Check them out.
---Students retell story in the present tense, identify all the verbs and recopy the story in the past tense.
---Students write their own questions about the story. Teacher compiles the best ones, and uses them for a test on the story. After each question write the student's name who wrote that question.
---Make a detailed map of the story's country.
---Students relate story to own experience. Could this story happen today? Why (not)? Could this story happen in your native countries? Why(not)?

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V. Somerset Maugham's The Kite
adapted for high intermediate ESL students by Nancy Alexander

This is a strange story. I hope by writing it down that it will become clear to me. There may be something Freudian about it. I'll just tell it.

This isn't my story, and I didn't know any of the characters involved. Ned Preston told it to me because he thought I could help him. Preston worked at Wormwood Scrubs Prison. We were having coffee and cigars at the Cafe Royale when he said,

"There's a funny chap at the Scrubs lately, and I don't know how to deal with him."

"What's he in for?" I asked.

"He left his wife and the court told him to pay alimony. He's refused. He says he'll stay in jail rather than pay her a penny. He's quite happy thinking about the trouble his wife is having."

"What 's his problem with her?"

"She smashed his kite."

"She did what?" I cried.

"Exactly that. He says he'll never forgive her. "

Herbert Sunbury was his name, not Herb or Bertie, but Herbert. His mother's name was Beatrice, never Bea. She was a little woman, but strong, active and wiry. She had pale skin, sharp, regular features, and small beady eyes. Her hair, very black, was always very neat. She never wore anything but good, black dresses made for her, and a gold cross on a chain.

Herbert's father, Samuel, was thin and wiry, too, but had sandy hair. He was balding and wore his hair long on one side combed over the thin part. His complexion was pasty, his eyes blue. He was a clerk in a lawyer's office and had ridden the same train every morning to work for twenty four years. The Sunburys abstained from drinking alcohol except on Sundays. Beatrice made a good dinner of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding every Sunday. And for her husband's health, she allowed him a glass of beer with the dinner. But she didn't keep liquor in the house. After church Mr. Sunbury went to the local pub with a jug and got a quart. He wouldn't drink alone, so Mrs. Sunbury had a glass, too.

Herbert was their only child. He was a pretty baby, and a good-looking child. Mrs. Sunbury made sure he had good manners. When it was time for him to go to school she worried and said,

"Bad talk and bad company destroys good manners." She hated the idea of Herbert mixing with bad and rough boys at school.

But Herbert was a good worker and had a head for numbers. His father decided that Herbert would be an accountant.

Herbert grew to five feet ten inches tall, a nice looking boy with regular features, dark hair, and his father's blue eyes. His father got him an accountant job. By the time he was 21, he was giving his mother his salary every three weeks. She gave him back an allowance for lunch and spending, and put the rest in the bank for a rainy day.

On Herbert's twenty-fifth birthday his father gave him a silver wrist-watch with glow-in-the-dark hands, and his mother gave him a kite. It wasn't the first kite she had ever given him. The first one he received when he was seven years old, and it happened this way. They had been in the park one Saturday afternoon and had seen boys flying kites.

"Mum, can I have one?"

"If you're a good boy and brush your teeth every morning Santa may bring you one on Christmas morning."

Santa brought him the first kite. He quickly learned how to fly it and it became a passion with Herbert. As he grew older his mother bought him larger and larger kites. Saturday afternoons became the great day of the week for the entire family, because they would go to the park to fly their kites. During the week, in the evenings they discussed kites. They laughed at smaller kites and were jealous of larger kites. They wanted to have the biggest and highest-flying kite. The kite they gave Herbert on his twenty-first birthday did not have a cord. It was seven feet high and used piano wire wound around a drum. Still, it wasn't enough for Herbert. He heard of a box kite, and made a small model for himself. It wasn't a success, but he was stubborn, and he was going to make it right.

1. Who is telling this story?
2. What is the difference between a narrator and an author?
3. Who are the characters?
4. How did Herbert become interested in kites?
5. Who gave him his first kite?
6. How did the family spend their weekends?
7. How would you describe Mrs. Sunbury? Mr. Sunbury?
8. Where does this story take place?

But then, Herbert fell in love. He asked his mum if he could bring her home to tea.

"It's that your mother can't stand strangers," his father said.

"It's not that," his mother said gloomily. " I keep to myself. What does she do?"

"She works in an office in the City and lives at home, if you can call it that. Her mum died and her dad married again, and they've got three kids and she doesn't get on with her step-ma."

Mrs. Sunbury arranged a stylish tea. They had tea in the sitting room they never used, and used china they never used normally. Miss Betty Bevan looked very much as Mrs. Sunbury must have looked at her age, except her lips were scarlet with paint, her cheeks painted and her short black hair was permanently waved. Mrs. Sunbury disliked her immediately, but decided to behave like a lady. She poured Miss Bevan a cup of tea.

"Ask Miss Bevan if she'll have bread and butter or a scone," his mother asked Herbert.

"Have both," his father answered for her.

With both on a plate that was too small, Betty Beven became more and more uncomfortable. Mrs. Sunbury was pleased. She cut the cake and gave her guest a large piece. As Betty tried to bite, it fell to the ground.

"I am sorry,"said the girl as she picked it up.

"I'll cut you another piece," said Mrs. Sunbury.

"Oh, don't bother, the floor is clean."

"I hope so," said Mrs. Sunbury "but I can't let you eat cake that has been on the floor. Herbert, bring it here and I'll cut Miss Beven another piece of cake."

"I don't want any more Mrs. Sunbury, really."

"I'm sorry you don't like the cake. I made it especially for you."

Betty refused to have any more tea and was glad to get rid of the cup. Then Herbert lit a cigarette.

"I'm dying for a cigarette, Herb," Betty begged as she saw Herbert light up.

"We prefer to call him Herbert, Miss Bevan," his mother said.

Betty saw that his mother was trying to make her uncomfortable, and now she saw a chance to get back at her.

"I know,"she said. "Imagine anyone calling anyone Herbert. At the office we call him Bertie."

"All I can say," said his mother "is that they are very common there."

Mrs. Sunbury was quiet fot the rest of the tea, while Herbert and his father maintained the conversation. Mrs. Sunbury knew that Betty was offended and that she wanted to leave but didn't know how to do it politely. She wasn't going to help her. Finally, Herbert said,

"Well Betty, I think it's time to go now. I'll go with you."

"Must you go so soon?" asked Mrs. Sunbury.

An hour later Herbert returned, angry with his mother.

"She said she'd never been so insulted in her life. I had a terrible time trying to calm her down."

"Well she's never coming here again."

"That's what you think. She was so upset tonight that I asked her to marry me. I'd been thinking about it for a while. "

"You fool, "screamed his mother," you fool."

There was a loud angry scene then. The next day everyone acted as if nothing had happened. He told his parents he was busy that Saturday afternoon. They told him they'd fly the kite very well without him.

When they began to make plans for their annual family vacation at the bay, Herbert responded,

"Write them and tell them I won't need my usual room this year. Betty and I are getting married and we're going to Southend for our honeymoon. "

"Isn't this sudden, Herbert?" cried his mother.

"Don't take it so hard, Mum. I had to get married sometime. Betty's out of a job, and we thought we'd like to get married now. We've got two rooms on Dabney Street and we're buying furniture from my savings. Don't worry. Everything will be the same as it always was. We can still go flying on Saturday afternoons. I just can't go this Saturday because she doesn't understand yet what there is in kite flying. She'll understand. After I'm married it'll be different."

"Well, son, if you marry that woman, you are not flying my kite. I bought it out of the housekeeping money, and it's mine."

1. How did Mrs. Sunbury feel about Herbert's invitation?
2. Why did Mrs. Sunbury make a special teas for Betty?
3. How did Betty feel at the tea? Why?
4. What did Herbert do to make her feel better?
5. What was Mrs. Sunbury's reaction to Herbert's vacation plans?
6. How would you describe Mrs. Sunbury's attitude toward Herbert's kite?

Herbert and Betty married, and Beatrice and Samuel were not there. The parents returned from their vacation, and the newlyweds returned from their honeymoon. On Saturdays, the parents went to the park to fly the giantic kite. Beatrice never mentioned her son. She decided

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not to forgive him. Samuel still rode the train to work every morning and talked to Herbert then. They talked about kites, of course, and how Mrs. Sunbury was now running with the enormous kite and enjoying it more than ever.

"Why don't you buy a kite of your own, Herbert?" his father asked.

"I asked Betty once, and she said, 'Act your age.' I don't want a kid's kite, and the big ones cost money. Betty's not working anymore. She says after working all her life she's going to take it easy now that she's married. She keeps the house and cleans. We're buying furniture now, and Betty said to buy the best because it was cheaper in the long run. So we bought the furniture on installments. With the furniture payments and the rent every month, there's no extra money. They say two can live as cheaply as one, but that has not been my experience so far."

For six months it went on like this, when one Saturday at the park, Samuel and Beatrice saw Herbert watching the big kite that he used to fly every weekend. He didn't try to speak to his parents, but his mother said,

"I knew he couldn't keep away from it." For many weeks Herbert came on Saturdays to watch his parents fly his big kite. But one Saturday they surprised him with a different kite. This time they had a small box kite, the one that he had designed and worked on. It was creating a lot of interest in the other fliers. It wasn't flying very well. Mrs. Sunbury came up to her son and asked,

"Would you like to try it, Herbert? It's just a small one because you have to get used to it. But we've got the plans to build a big one, and with the right wind you can get it up about two miles." Herbert took the kite, ran down the hill, and the kite flew beautifully. His heart filled with joy to watch it fly so sweetly. But as he watched, he thought of the great big one they were making. His parents invited him back to the house for tea. They wanted to show him the plans for the big box kite they were making. He paused. He had told his wife he was going for a walk. But he went to see the plans. She was upset when he got home . She refused to go out to see a movie with him that evening. The next Saturday he went to the park to fly the little box kite and his mother said,

" Your wife is here, spying on you."

"Let her spy. I don't care." But instead of returning to his parents' house, he went straight home. Betty was ready with an argument.

"So that's what you've been doing . Imagine flying a kite, a grown man. It's disgusting."

" Betty, I have flown a kite every Saturday afternoon since I was a kid, and I'm going to continue because I like it."

"It's that old witch, she's trying to take you away from me. If you were a real man, you'd never speak to her again."

Their fight went on for over an hour. They didn't speak to each other all week. The next two Saturdays it rained all day, and they were forgetting they had ever had a fight. Betty went out of her way to be nice to Herbert. She thought now that he'd heard her tongue and he knew she meant what she said, there would be no more disagreements. He was a good provider, and in time, she could manage him her way.

But the weather cleared and the new kite came. Mr. Sunbury met Herbert on the train one morning and said,

" If you're afraid of Betty having a fit don't come. There's a young fellow at the park who's ready and eager to help us with the new kite."

Herbert was jealous.

"Don't let anybody else touch our kite. I'll be there Saturday."

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Saturday came and Herbert didn't hide where he was going.

"The new kite's here, and I'm going to fly it."

"Oh no, you're not. I won't let you. " She shut the door and stood in front of it. Herbert picked her up, threw her on the bed, and left.

"If you go, don't come back," she screamed behind him.

1. After he was married, how did Herbert spend his Saturdays?
2. What were Betty's feelings about kites?
3. Why was Betty upset when Herbert got home?
4. What do you think of Betty's reaction to Herbert's kite?
5. How would you describe Betty's feelings toward her mother-in-law?
6. Does Betty like being married? Why?

The new kite created more excitement than any kite ever. Still, the wind was not quite right and they couldn't get it up. Herbert and his parents returned to their house . Herbert didn't want to go home. He was afraid of the scene Betty would make . Finally he went. Betty sat reading the paper.

"You bag's packed. You heard what I said. Your clothes and your things are there. Now, leave."

Herbert went home to his parents. Over supper he told them about his problems with Betty. His mother felt like she knew it all the time. All week they talked about the kite and about Betty. They tried to plan what to do next.

"She'll try to get you back."

"It won't work, Mum. "

"He'll have to take care of her and her expenses."

"I'll give her what she wants as long as she leaves me alone, Dad."

Herbert was liking it at home. It was great to have his mother brush his clothes and mend his socks. She cooked better than his wife. It was nice to have more space than just two rooms.

He was paid on Friday, and Friday evening after supper the doorbell rang. They all knew it was HER. Mrs. Sunbury said,

"You leave this to me."

She opened the door. Betty tried to push her way in. "I want to see Herb."

"He's not here. And besides, he doesn't want to see you. I'll call the police if you make a scene."

"I want my week's money."

"That's all you ever wanted from him. Well here are thirty-five shillings."

"Thirty-five shillings? The rent is twelve shillings a week! And then there are the payments on the furniture." Betty stood unhappily in the doorway. Mrs. Sunbury put the money in her hand and slammed the door in her face.

The next day the wind was right and they sailed the kite high into the air. Herbert said he'd never had such a thrill in his life. Several weeks passed. They wrote a letter to Betty saying if she stayed away, she would get thirty-five shillings a week and Herbert would pay the furniture installments . Herbert felt better than ever. The new kite was flying well now, and he could do great things with it. Saturday afternoons he was king. But one afternoon on his way home from the park with his father, Betty stopped them.

N Alexander

"Can I speak to my husband alone?"

"There's nothing you can say to me that my dad can't hear."

"Alright. I want you to come home to me. I'm sorry, I didn't mean it. Silly fighting over a kite."

"Well, I'm not coming back. The best thing you did for me was to throw me out." Betty began to cry.

"But I love you. If you want to fly your silly old kite, I don't care. Just come home."

"Thank you, but no. I know when I'm wanted, and I've had enough married life. Let's go, Dad."

They went home. The next day was Sunday. After dinner Herbert went to the shed to visit the kite. He ran back shouting,

"She smashed it! She did it with this!" He held a hatchet. The expensive new kite was in fragments, the reel in pieces. Herbert was so mad he wanted to go after her right then and there, but his mother held him back. She advised him to let his father go, and they would decide what to do when he got back. When he returned , Mr. Sunbury said,

" She did it, alright. She admitted it. She' s proud of it, too. She said she'd do it again if she had the chance."

"If she'd told me that, I'd have killed her. Well, She'll never get another penny out of me."

"She'll sue you, " his father said. " And, if you stop paying for the furniture, they'll take it away. All the money you have paid up to now will be wasted."

"I don't care about the money. The furniture meant a lot more to her than to me. I'd love to see her face when they come to take it away."

So, the next Friday he did not send Betty her money. He didn't respond to her letters asking him to pay the installments. She started waiting for him at the train station, and when he wouldn't speak to her, she would follow him in the street screaming at him. In the evening she would come by the house and ring the bell for hours, until they thought they would go mad. She threw a stone through the living room window, and wrote angry postcards to him at his office. At last, she went to court and sued her husband for desertion and lack of support. They both told their story to the judge, and he ordered Herbert to pay Betty twenty-five shillings a week. He refused to pay it.

"Then you'll go to prison," said the judge. "Next case."

But Herbert meant what he said. Again Betty brought him into court. Again the judge spoke with him.

"You are a foolish young man. If you don't pay her within the week, you'll go to prison until you see reason."

Herbert didn't pay, and that was how my friend in the prison heard his story.

"So, what do you think? Betty isn't bad looking. The only thing wrong with her is her crazy jealousy of Herbert's kite. What is it about kite flying that makes him so mad about the whole thing?"

"I don't know," I answered, thinking about it. "Maybe it gives him power to control something that flies toward the sky. Maybe he feels he can conquer nature by making the kite fly where he wants. Maybe in some strange way he wants to be that kite, as if it's his escape from his life. Maybe it stands for freedom and adventure. But maybe this is all nonsense. You should ask someone who knows more about psychology than I do."

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1. Why is Herbert happy to be back at home?
2. What deal did he make with Betty?
3.Does Betty really love Herbert?
4. What does she do to get Herbert back?
5. What happened that Sunday?
6. What does the word *harassment* mean?
7. Why won't Herbert pay?
8. Why does Herbert like to fly kites?
9. Why does the narrator return at the end?
10. Is there hope for Herbert and Betty? Why?

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Bibliography of Literature about Kites

Calhoun, Mary, The Battle of Reuben, Robin and Kite Uncle John, Morrow Publishers, New York, NY, 1973, K-5th grade ESL readers. Told as a tall tale, Kite Uncle John battles a robin wanting Kite Uncle John's kite line for its nest. Good kite flying descriptions and vocabulary.

Chew, Ruth, Secondhand Magic, Holiday House, New York, NY, 1981, 127 pages, 4th grade reading level, 4th - 6th grade ESL readers. This author has written many other children's books. Here, two kids find a bird kite in the park, and it responds to their wishes. The kids have adventures.

Luenn, Nancy, The Dragon Kite, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York, NY, 1982, 32 pages, 4th grade reading level, 4th - 7th grade ESL readers. Beautiful illustrations, a modern folktale based on an historical character from 17th century Japan, Ishikawa. Ishikawa learns the kitemaker's art to steal 2 statues from atop the Shogun's palace. As he's about to be executed for the crime, the Dragon kite's spirit returns to free him, and he finds a new life building kites. RECOMMENDED

Maugham, W. Somerset, "The Kite", The Complete Short Stories of Somerset Maugham, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, England, 1963, volume 2, 10 pages,7th grade reading level, 7th-adult ESL readers (ESL adaptation available from N Alexander)

Reeser, Michael, Huan Chin and the Golden Fish, Raintree Publishers, Milwaukee, WI, 1988, 31 pages, 3rd grade reading level, 3rd - 6th grade ESL readers. Written by a 6th grader as a contest entry, this story won first prize in a young author's contest. Told in 1st person present tense, Huan Ching and his family celebrate a kite flying holiday in China. RECOMMENDED

Rey, Margaret, Curious George Flies a Kite, Houghton, Mifflin, Boston, MA 1958, 80 pages, K-3rd ESL readers. A classic story about a monkey who gets into lots of trouble while kite flying unsupervised.

Uchida, Yoshiko, Sumi's Prize, Scribner and Sons, New York, NY, 1964, 48 pages, K-3rd grade ESL readers. A traditional Japanese girl enters a kite flying contest and wins a prize better than any prize ever. Excellent story to show that girls can compete and win in a "boys" world. RECOMMENDED

Wright, Mildred Whatley, A Sky Full of Dragons , Steck- Vaughn Co., Austin, TX 1969, 32 pages, K - 3rd grade ESL readers ; Lee Chow wants to be friends with marble-playing boys in the park so he and Grandfather make dragon kites for the Ching Ming festival, and end up trading kites for the marbles. Illustrated.

Yolen, Jane, The Seventh Mandarin, Seabury, New York, NY, 1970, 34 pages, K- 5th grade ESL readers ; 7 mandarins and their king live a sheltered life. Every night the mandarins fly the king's dragon kite which represents the king's soul. When the 7th mandarin loses the kite one night, the king learns there are less fortunate people in his kingdom and rectifies it. Alexander

Yolen, Jane, The Emperor and the Kite, World Publishing Co., Cleveland,OH, 1967, 31 pages, K-5th grade ESL readers. Beautiful illustrations. The youngest of 7 saves her Chinese emperor father with her kite. Based on an old, Chinese legend.

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Bibliography of Kite Construction Resource Books

Create-A-Kite , Consumer Guide, Simon and Schuster, New York, NY, 1977 , 128 pages; good section on decorating; extremely thorough and technical; 20 kite design plans given; adult reading level.

Fowler, H. Walter, Kites, A Practical Guide, Ronald Press, New York, NY, 1955, 95 pages; very good text, short and sweet; RECOMMENDED

Hiroi, Tsutomu, Kites Sculpting the Sky, Pantheon, New York, NY, 1978, 114 pages; a classic in Japan written in the 1920's; translated into English in this edition; many excellent pictures; easy to read; great children's kite designs not using sticks; some very unusual designs; RECOMMENDED

Hunt, Leslie, 25 Kites that Fly, Dover Press, New York, NY, 110 pages; an update of a 1928 classic; many unusual shapes and designs with good construction tips; short and sweet.

Jue, David F., Chinese Kites, How to Make and Fly Them, Charles E. Tuttle and Co., Rutland, VT/Tokyo, 51 pages; very good basic book on making bamboo kites; 6th grade readability; RECOMMENDED

Lloyd, Ambrose and Thomas, Nicolette, Kites and Kite Flying, Hamlyn Publishing Group, London, 1978, 94 pages; long initial section on kite history with many photos and illustrations; only 14 pages of actual kite designs and instructions.

Marks, Burton and Rita, Kites for Kids , 4th grade reading level; good, simple, step-by-step instructions for making kites with household materials such as drapery hooks, safety pins, paper bags; kids will like this book, but kites will be heavy using their materials; suggest using plastic bags instead of paper or flying these kites on very windy days. RECOMMENDED

Morgan, Paul and Helene, The Ultimate Kite Book, Simon and Schuster, 1992, New York, NY, 80 pages; colorful, simple and complete explanations; many excellent color photographs, especially illustrating kite launching; reading level 5th-6th grade, good for ESL students; listed a Chicago kite material supplier in the back.

Thomas , Bill, The Complete World of Kites, Lippincott, Philadelphia, PA 1972, 176 pages; good history of kite flying section; good construction tips; interesting kite designs using picnic items such as a picnic flier from a paper plate, a soda straw kite and a paper bag kite. RECOMMENDED

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Sources for Kite Making Materials

North

Hill's Hobby and Collector Shop
10 Prairie St.
Park Ridge, IL 60068
(708) 823-4464

Des Plaines Hobbies
1468 Lee St.
Des Plaines, IL 60018
(708) 297-2118

Chicagoland Hobby
6017 Northwest Highway
Chicago, IL 60631
(312) 775-4848

Stanton Hobby Shop, Inc.
4734 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
(312) 283-6446

Tom Thumb Hobby and Crafts
1026 Davis St.
Evanston, IL 60201
(708) 869-9575

Venture Hobbies
23 Huntington
Wheeling IL 60090
(708) 537-8669

West

Flying Tiger Hobby and Collector Shop
7226 W. Roosevelt Rd
Forest Park, IL, 60130
(708) 771-3466

Al's Hobby Shop, Inc.
121 Addison St.
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(708) 832-4908

Hobbytown USA
7307-B Lemont Rd.
Downer's Grove, IL 60515
(708) 963-8661

Jim's Hobbies
613-615 Front Rd.
McHenry, IL 60050
(815) 363-0333

Palatine Hobby, LTD.
Palatine, IL 60067
(708) 359-7888

South

Pat's Hobbies and Crafts, INC.
5730 W. 95th St.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
(708) 424-6131

Don's Hobby World
18415 S. Halsted St.
Glenwood, IL 60425
(708) 754-7988